

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-01

INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 SP-02

CIEP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGRE-00 NSC-05 SS-15

STR-04 CEA-01 IGA-02 L-03 H-02 AF-08 ARA-10 EA-09

NEA-10 IO-13 DODE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 /154 W

-----171310Z 077264 /46

R 170943Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9819

INFO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS UNN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 0729

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, SW

SUBJECT: SWEDISH GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE ON AID POLICY

1. SWEDISH MINISTER FOR ASSISTANCE, OLA ULLSTEN, HOSTED A ONE-DAY CONFERENCE IN STOCKHOLM ON FEBRUARY 14 TO ELABORATE ON SWEDEN'S ROLE IN HELPING LDC'S IN THEIR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT. PARTICIPATION INCLUDED GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES (THE SWEDISH TRADE UNION MOVEMENT WAS INVITED BELATEDLY AND DECLINED TO ATTEND.)

2. THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING WAS TO IMPLEMENT THE GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSAL, INCLUDED IN ITS BUDGET BILL, THAT
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A WORKING GROUP EXAMINE SWEDEN'S ASSISTANCE POLICIES AND REPORT TO THE RIKSDAG "IN THE WINTER OF 1978."

THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S PRESS RELEASE (BELOW) EMPHASIZES THAT THE LDC'S ARE TURNING TO SWEDEN FOR HELP BECAUSE SWEDEN IS "A SMALL HIGHLY INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRY WHICH PURSUES A PROGRESSIVE AID POLICY."

3. PRESS RELEASE, FEBRUARY 14. BEGIN TEXT:

THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES SHOULD RECEIVE GREAT SWEDISH SUPPORT TO DEVELOP THEIR INDUSTRY, IT WAS STATED BY AID MINISTER OLA ULLSTEN WHEN OPENING THE GOVERNMENT'S CONFERENCE ON DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE COLLABORATION IN THE INDUSTRIAL FIELD AT HAGA PALACE ON MONDAY. THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ARE DEMANDING AN INCREASED SHARE OF THE WORLD'S INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION IN THE DISCUSSIONS OF A NEW ECONOMIC WORLD ORDER AND ELSEWHERE. MANY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES HAVE, IN FACT, TURNED TO SWEDEN TO OBTAIN ASSISTANCE IN BUILDING UP THEIR INDUSTRIES. FOR SWEDEN'S PART, ULLSTEN SAID, WE MUST NOW ACTIVELY SEEK TO FIND FORMS FOR OUR PARTICIPATION SO THAT WE CAN LIVE UP TO THE EXPECTATIONS OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. SWEDEN IS REGARDED AS BEING A PARTICULARLY INTERESTING COLLABORATION PARTNER BECAUSE WE ARE A SMALL HIGHLY INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRY WHICH PURSUES A PROGRESSIVE AID POLICY. THE JOB BEFORE US IS TO SIFT IDEAS AND FIND CONSTRUCTIVE SOLUTIONS FOR HARMONIZATION OF SWEDEN'S INDUSTRIAL KNOW-HOW AND SWEDEN'S DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROJECTS.

4. INDUSTRIALIZATION IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES MUST TAKE PLACE ON THEIR OWN TERMS AND IN THEIR OWN INTERESTS, OLA ULLSTEN STRESSED. SWEDISH PROJECTS HAVE BEEN, AND MUST CONTINUE TO BE, DIRECTED TOWARD THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. AT THE SAME TIME AS WE DISCUSS OUR PARTICIPATION IN THE INDUSTRIALIZATION OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN UNCLASSIFIED

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POSITIVE TERMS, WE WILL HAVE CAUSE, NATURALLY, TO REMEMBER THAT OUR MODERN TECHNOLOGY IS BY NO MEANS ALWAYS THE PROPER TECHNOLOGY FOR COUNTRIES IN AN EARLY STAGE OF THEIR INDUSTRIALIZATION PROCESS. THE QUESTION OF THE ABILITY OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO HANDLE THEIR IMPORTS OF TECHNOLOGY WILL BE GIVEN SPECIAL CONSIDERATION, THEREFORE.

5. THIS CONFERENCE AT HAGA PALACE IS ONE INGREDIENT OF THE REVIEW OF SWEDISH DEVELOPMENT COLLABORATION IN THE INDUSTRIAL FIELD WHICH THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED IN THIS YEAR'S BUDGET BILL. PARTICIPATING IN THE CONFERENCE ARE SOME 30 PEOPLE WITH EXPERIENCE OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE, AND INDUSTRY. END TEXT. SMITH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 17-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STOCKH00729
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770056-1262
Format: TEL
From: STOCKHOLM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770229/aaaabahh.tel
Line Count: 112
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b1affc4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3288174
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SWEDISH GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE ON AID POLICY
TAGS: EAID, SW
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b1affc4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009